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- City of Baldwin
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Steps taken to aid safety

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Maquoketa public works crews will install signs and more visible pavement markings to improve pedestrian safety in the area of West Summit and South Vermont streets.

But the City Council's Public Safety Committee last week stopped short of recommending against making the intersection a four-way stop.

The issue was raised by Councilman-elect Don Schwenker, who said he was contacted by a couple of residents who asked if steps could be taken to slow traffic on Summit.

The residents contacted him after a 9-year-old boy was injured after he darted out in front of a car on Summit east of the intersection with Vermont on Nov. 30.

Schwenker noted that motorists on Summit often travel faster than the 25-mile-an-hour speed limit.

He noted that there is no school zone designation sign or other marking to indicate that the intersection is near the high school.

Schwenker said he has noticed that there is much foot traffic in the area, with many students walking between the high school and middle school.

He said two residents told him they're surprised that pedestrian accidents don't occur more often at that intersection.

Schwenker noted that from the west end of Summit Street, where it joins Iowa 64 at the west edge of the city to the east side, where it joins Jacobsen Drive and continues to Iowa 64 at the east edge, there is only one stop sign, at South Main Street.

Police Chief Brad Koranda noted, however, that the accident occurred when the boy was crossing the street in the middle of the block rather than at an intersection. He said the car that hit him "definitely wasn't speeding. It was an accident."

Committee member Galen Saunders also noted that there is good visibility on Summit Street for both motorists and pedestrians and that few cars are parked along the street where pedestrians could be hidden.

"I don't know that a four-way stop there is the way to go," he said.

Koranda said it would be difficult to enforce a four-way stop at Vermont and Summit because it has been a through street for many years.

Committee member Eric Pape suggested a portable stop sign that would be placed in the street when students are coming to school or leaving in the afternoon.

Koranda noted that the responsibility would have to be placed on the school district, police department or

■ SAFETY, Please turn to page 15

City awarded grant for purchase of wind turbine

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The cost of operating the Maquoketa Area Family YMCA stands to be reduced someday by the wind.

Maquoketa city officials received word last week that the Iowa Office of Energy Independence has awarded the city a \$156,836 grant to help finance purchase and installation of a wind generator that would serve the YMCA facility.

City Manager Brian Wagner mentioned the grant briefly during a City Council meeting Monday night, Dec. 7.

"It's good news that after a long wait—longer than we thought we'd have to wait—we did hear that we were awarded a grant toward the purchase of a wind turbine," Wagner told the council.

After it's paid for, Wagner estimated that the

wind generator will save the city nearly \$63,000 a year in utility costs, Wagner said in an interview earlier Monday.

With the grant, it's estimated that the generator will pay for itself in about 8 1/2 years. Without the grant, city officials estimate it would take about 11 years for the city to recoup the cost.

The grant will pay about 22 percent of the estimated \$700,000 cost of a 250-kilowatt generator, Wagner said.

Of the remaining \$543,164, the city is looking to take out a \$500,000 no-interest loan from WPPI Energy of Sun Prairie, Wis. The company is the wholesale electricity supplier to Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility.

Wagner said a state program is available to finance the remaining amount of about \$50,000.

Wagner said another, more detailed study will



MSP photo by Kelly Gerlach

Jenny Current and Jill Wagener (owner and operator), Jill's Family Hair Care, 115 N. Main St.

Jill's Family Hair Care opens on Main Street

By KELLY GERLACH

What to do, what to do.

With two daughters in college and a son in high school, Jill Wagener found a little more wiggle room in her previously hectic schedule.

"I was going stir-crazy at home, so I had to ask myself what I like to do," the Maquoketa native said. "I always liked hair and makeup, and I drove past Capri (College of Cosmetology) one day and that reaffirmed my feelings that I wasn't too old to start something new."

That something new turned into a career as a stylist and her own business, Jill's Family Hair Care, located at 115 N. Main St. (formerly Brenda's Flowers & Gifts), Maquoketa.

Wagner is the daughter of Butch and Marilyn Edwards and wife of Mike Wagner of Wagner Concrete. When the couple's children were in elementary school, Wagner worked at Briggs Elementary School, then at Delwood. But the kids grew up and she needed a new career path to occupy her time.

Wagner said she enjoyed getting back in the classroom at Capri.

"I got into some really cool classes with people of all varying age ranges. When you go back to school when you're older, I think you have a better appreciation for the classroom," Wagner said.

Wagner employed Jenny Current as stylist in the salon as well. The two met in the classroom and Wagner knew Current's parents.

When Brenda's Flowers & Gifts store space

became available for rent, Current teased Wagener that the latter would open her own salon.

"And I said no...but here we are," the owner said, standing in the middle of her renovated salon.

Jill's Family Hair Care is a full-service salon. Wagener and Current cut, color and style hair for men, women and children. The salon also offers spray tanning.

"(Spray tanning) is something no one else in town has. It's an option for a holiday, a vacation, any time you want to spiff yourself up. It keeps a solid tan for 10 days if you keep your skin moisturized properly," Wagener explained.

In addition to the spray tanning, Wagener said she can apply the tanner by hand.

Jill's Family Hair Care offers waxing and sells the Redken line of hair care products. Wagener said she will soon be adding a nail technician to the salon.

She will be offering monthly specials as well.

Wagner said she's been enjoying the new career.

"It's neat. You never know what's coming in when. Someone new walks in every day."

Jill's Family Hair Care is open Monday from 3 to 8 p.m., Tuesday from 1 to 8 p.m., closed Wednesday, open Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.